
Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Drawings

1. In paragraph 1, the Examiner indicated that the "drawings are objected to because some of the figure headings are spelled wrong." The applicant has included with this response amended figures 1, 13 and 17 correcting the spelling of the figure headings. The applicant has included annotated drawing sheets showing the changes made. The applicant believes that these amended drawings and these comments are fully responsive to the objection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

2. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 102 "that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action." The applicant believes that no response is required for this paragraph.

3. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 17–19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 31 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laurent (US 6,378,888)." The applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while

hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited reference does not disclose the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 1-18 depend on claim 1 and claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 31 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

4. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) "which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action." The applicant believes that no response is required for this paragraph.

5. The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8, 20 and 26 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Haggard (US 2,870,928)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without

revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The

applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 2 and 8 depend on claim 1 and claims 20 and 26 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

6. The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 23 "under 36 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view Banks (GB 2,169,248)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 5 depends on claim 1 and claim 23 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the

applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

7. The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 27 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of van der Lely (US 4,362,340)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 9 depends on claim 1 and claim 27 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

8. The Examiner rejected claims 12, 14, 30 and 32 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Bombardier (US 3,149,738)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly

on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claims 2 and 14 depend on claim 1 and claims 30 and 32 depend on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

9. The Examiner rejected claims 15 and 33 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888) in view of Good (US 4,890,560)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 15 depends on claim 1

and claim 33 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

10. The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 34 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (US 6,378,888)." As noted above, the applicant has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended to more clearly point out that the base panel of applicant's invention is adapted to skid directly on the ground while hauling a load. The applicant wishes to clarify and point out that the applicant's invention is a skid which, as defined in the commonly used American Heritage Dictionary, is "the act of sliding or slipping over a surface . . . to slide without revolving as a wheel." *American Heritage Dictionary*, Dell Publishing, 1970. The applicant believes that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 19 and therefore, since claim 16 depends on claim 1 and claim 34 depends on claim 19, the applicant believes that these amendments and this response are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this paragraph.

Conclusion

11. The Examiner indicated that certain "prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure." The applicant appreciates the

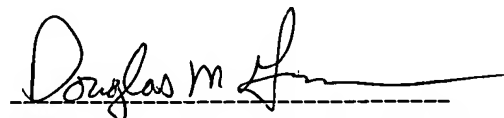
Examiner's search and respectfully requests that this art be included among the list of Cited References in this application. The applicant believes that no further response is required for this specific paragraph.

12. The Examiner provided information concerning communication on this case. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to discuss this case but believes that no specific response to this paragraph is required.

The Applicant has submitted with this response amended drawings as required by the Examiner and has requested that claims 1 and 19 be amended as previously described. In view of the foregoing, and in summary, applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office Action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the presently presented claims (claims 1-34) are patentable over the prior art.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted this 16 day of August, 2005.



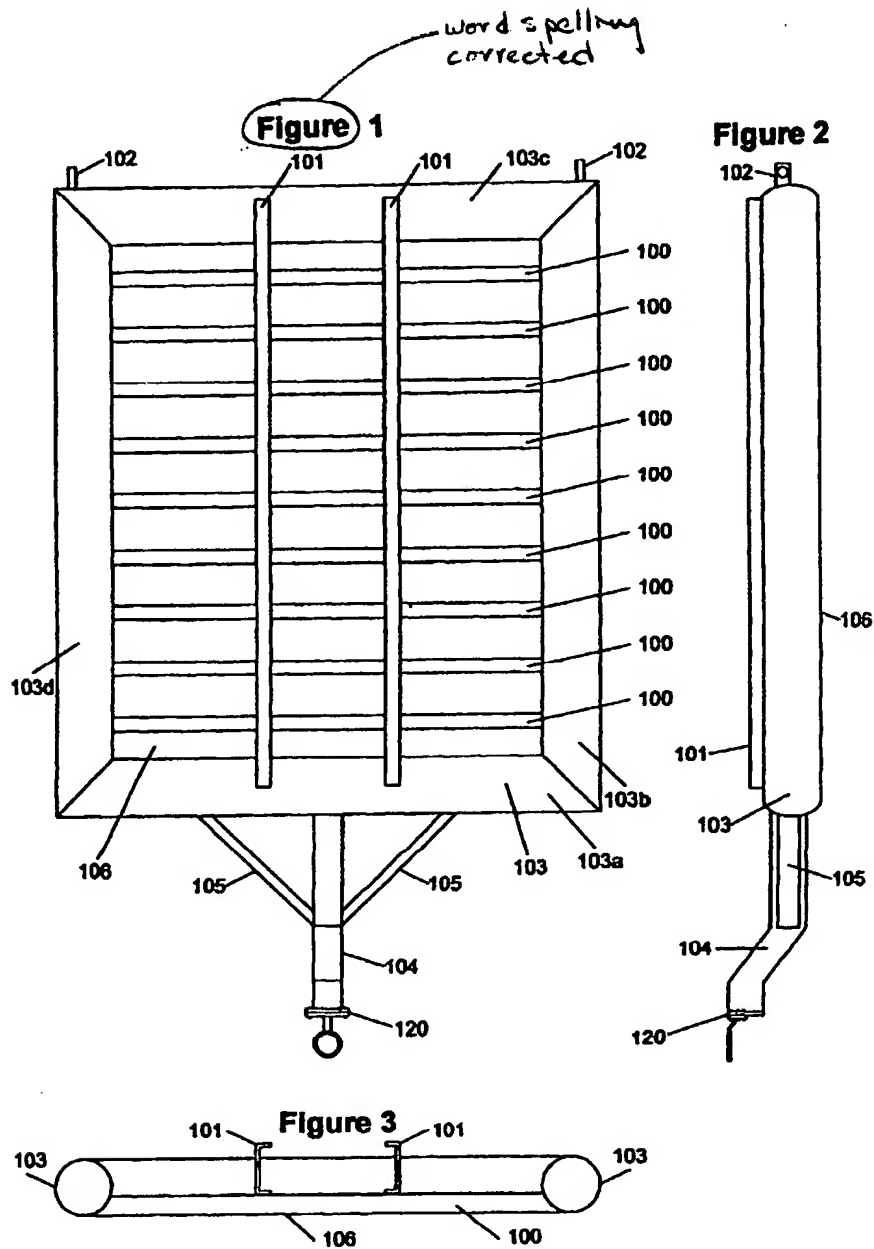
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Examiner M. Scott Lowe
Group Art Unit: 3652
Confirm. No.: 8098



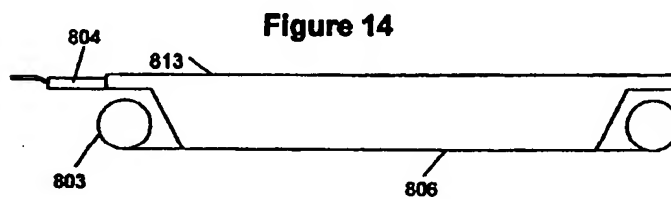
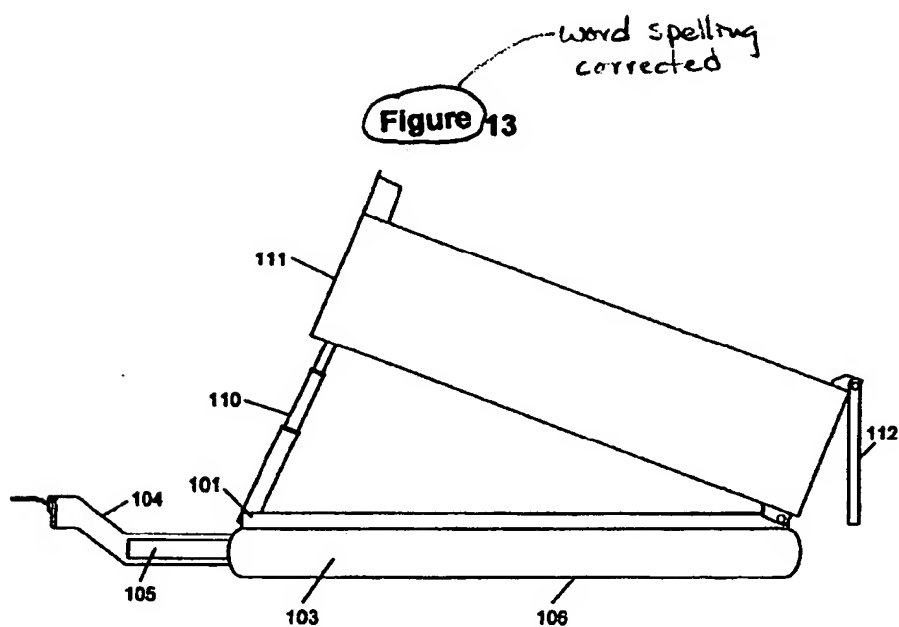


Figure 16

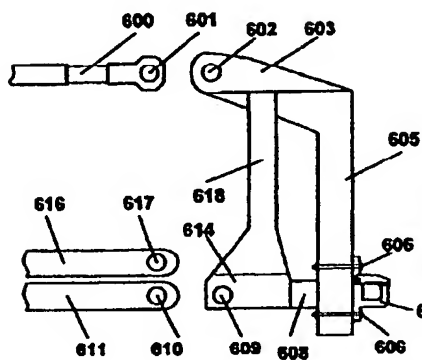
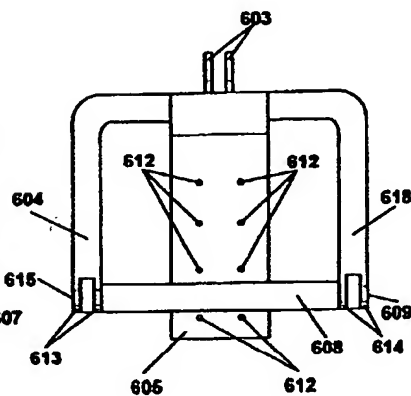


Figure 17



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